

Wycombe share the points in dull game at Ilford

Sports Mail Special Report

ILFORD 0 : WYCOMBE WANDS. 0

A COMPARATIVELY young and inexperienced Ilford side showed more fire and bite than Wycombe Wanderers when they met in the Isthmian League at Ilford this afternoon, but the game resulted in a goalless draw.

Ilford: Wiffin; Saxby, Smith; McKendry, Bellchamber, Farmer; Evans, Welsby, Maskell, Ruglys, Ferdinand.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Crook, Timberlake; Thomas, Bartholomew, Darvill; Worley, Rockell, Bates, Trott, James.

Referee: Mr. J. H. Robinson.

The ankle injury Wycombe right back, John Beck, received at Hounslow on Monday kept him out of the team. His place was taken by Ken Crook.

Ilford attacked strongly from the kick-off and Crook and Timberlake both cleared nasty situations.

As the Ilford rush petered out, Wycombe began to combine well, particularly Worley and Rockell on the right wing. Worley beat three men in one dribble and his centre was cleared with difficulty.

Ilford hit back in dramatic fashion, a full blooded drive from Welsby striking the crossbar with Brown groping.

WORLEY AGAIN

After this, the exchanges sagged and a goal was needed to liven it up. Worley nearly did the trick with a flashing header, but full back Saxby headed off the line.

Within seconds Ilford had a second narrow escape as a daring back-header from Rockell was banged away by Smith.

It was Wycombe's turn to breathe again as Brown saved brilliantly a close-range volley from Ferdinand.

The Wanderers' defence was frequently uncertain under pressure and wing halves Thomas and Darvill could not get a grip on the mid-field play. Half-time: Ilford 0, Wycombe Wanderers 0.

GREAT CHANCE LOST

A mistake by McKindry cost Ilford a vital goal—he missed a "sitter" with Brown standing helplessly in front of him.

The speedy Rockell looked Wycombe's best bet for the winner. When Trott centred hard from the left wing, Rockell glanced a delicate header just wide of the far post—a fine effort and Wycombe's best of the match.

Although the Wycombe defence was much more composed this half, with Crook and Bartholomew clearing well, the forwards were strangely subdued.

LIFELESS PLAY

Bates, who was playing deep, was completely ineffective, and the inside forwards showed little combination of thrust.

A mis-kick by Darvill nearly had disastrous consequences for Wycombe. The ball was cleared for a corner kick and Brown had to leap high to tip a header over the bar.

A burst from Trott brought a dull and drab game suddenly to life.

This was one of Wycombe's worst-ever displays at Ilford with only glimpses of constructive attacking play.

Wing half Darvill made a great last-minute effort to snatch both points, but Bellchamber cleared in the nick of time.

RESULT:

ILFORD 0
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 0

WYCOMBE ARE HELD

Ilford 0 Wycombe 0

WYCOMBE manager Sid Cann shrugged his shoulders after this goal-starved Isthmian League encounter and declared: "That's one match which is best forgotten." (writes COLIN BARR).

Ilford's keen brand of enthusiasm had given their far more experienced rivals a tough, testing time that had presented Wycombe with few goal-scoring opportunities.

The goal threat of such experienced players as Worley, Bates, Trott, and Rockell, was almost non-existent. John Bartholomew, the determined Wycombe centre half, was in almost non-stop action against a keen and relentless attack that saw inside-left John Welsby scrape the crossbar after 13 minutes.

Wycombe retaliated and were desperately unlucky when two goal-bound chances were cleared on the goal-line by Ilford's backs Ken Saxby and John Smith.

Unlucky Paul Bates was injured in the 35th minute, and played with concussion throughout the second half. But no excuses—there was little opportunity for ball artist Len Worley to exploit his craft on the right wing.

The nearest Wycombe came to scoring was when Rockell, racing in to meet a right-wing centre from Trott, headed down on to the far post.

There was a last-minute goal bid by Wycombe that ended in an unsuccessful left-wing corner. But, on this showing, the proud amateurs of Buckinghamshire need to display far greater improvement both in team work and speed.